

REMARKS

Claims 31-40, 42-53, and 57-60 are currently pending. Although claims 36-57, 59, and 60 were previously withdrawn from consideration, Applicants' Reply to Office Action dated October 29, 2003, and January 29, 2004, either amended these claims to make them depend from elected claims or canceled them.

In the outstanding Office Action of April 1, 2004, the Examiner objected to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter; objected to dependent claim 37 for failing to further limit the subject matter recited in a previous claim; and rejected claims 36-40, 42, 45, 46, 49-53, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, for being indefinite. The Examiner also allowed claims 31-35, 43, 44, 47, 48, and 58-60, and indicated that claims 36-40, 42, 45, 46, 49-53, and 57 would be allowable if amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejections. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter, and respond to the objections and rejections in turn.

Regarding the objection to the specification, Applicants have amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner.

Regarding the objection to claim 37 and the rejections for indefiniteness, Applicants have amended the claims substantially as suggested by the Examiner. Rather than cancel claim 37 and amend claims 36 and 38 as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have canceled claim 36 and amended claim 37 to achieve the same end.

In light of the present amendments, Applicants have overcome the Examiner's objections and rejections, placing all of pending claims 31-40, 42-53, and 57-60 in

condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass this case to issue.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 31-40, 42-53, and 57-60 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 37, 39, 42, 45, 46, 49-53, and 57 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

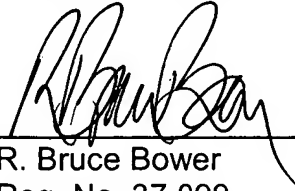
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 3, 2004

By: _____


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